REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 6-9, 12, 29 and 37 have been cancelled. Claims 1-5 and 13-15 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 6, 7 and 29 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Lewis et al. (US 6,694,090) (hereinafter "Lewis").

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis in view of Oh et al. (US 6,430,360) (hereinafter "Oh").

Claims 1-5, 12-15 and 37 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oh and Lewis.

Oh discusses a method and apparatus for blocking reproduction of video title in an optical disc player. In Oh, in the reproduction mode (S100), a user is asked to enter a password (S200) corresponding to the chosen/desired rating level. Once the user enters a password (S300), a comparison is made by the microcomputer 110 to check whether the password entered matches the password stored in the apparatus (S400). If it is determined that the password entered is correct (S500), an "OK" message is displayed (S600) and then the microcomputer 110 drives the optical disk through the servo unit 7 so that the recorded signal is reproduced into audio/video data through the RF processing unit 5, the digital signal processor 9, and the MPEG decoder 10 (S800). On the other hand, in the case where the password entered is incorrect for the chosen rating level, a warning message is not displayed while an "OK" message is displayed, as in the case that the correct password is entered (S700). After that, the program chain associated with a "kids safe" or other predetermined non-adult rating contents in the video title is set to the chain of data stream to be decoded in the MPEG decoder 10 and then video data containing the "kids safe" or other predetermined non-adult rating contents are reproduced (S900). Oh, 3:59-4:14 and Figure 6.

Claims 1-5 and 12-15

Amended independent claim 1 recites: "...wherein the setting of the passwords comprises, one or a combination of, designating each of the passwords to a corresponding one of the levels and designating one of the passwords to a plurality of the levels." Support for this amendment may be found in at least original claim 12. The Office Action relies on Oh to supply this feature of claim 1, and in particular, Figure 5 of Oh. However, in contrast to claim 1, Oh only discusses that if the password entered by a user matches the password stored in a memory in the reproduction apparatus for the chosen rating level, the microcomputer 110 retrieves a rating level that the user chose (S810). If it is determined that the rating level allowed through the matched password is "adult" rating (S820), the microcomputer 110 controls the MPEG decoder 10 so that data streams belonging to the program chains containing PGC3-1 and PGC5-1 whose rating levels are "adult" are reproduced. See Oh, 4:16-4:30 and Figure 5.

Claim 1 recites designating one of the passwords to a plurality of the levels. This technical feature of claim 1 allows one password to be used to select any of the viewing levels. In contrast, when a password is entered in Oh the content of the video is automatically determined. Further, this deficiency in Oh is not cured by Lewis.

Claim 12 has been cancelled. Claims 2-5 and 13-15 depend on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons. Further, claims 2-5 and 12-15 recite features that patentably distinguish over Oh and Lewis, taken alone or in combination. For example, claim 2 recites that the levels for restricting the reproduction of the video are parental levels in the DVD system.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 6-9, 29 and 37

Claims 6-9, 29 and 37 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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